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The People's Press.

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The People's Press.

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The Lucky ...

A LAWY...

Mr. Courtney ... bachelor and the uncle ... of nephews—the one ..., and the other a sister's son. These two were his next of kin, legally entitled, in case he died intestate, to inherit his property.

Edward Horton, his deceased sister's son, was decidedly the favorite, and to him the old man decided to give the bulk of his estate.

Charles Courtney, the other nephew, had inherited a handsome fortune from his father, and moreover, by his uncle's will, was entitled to succeed to that left by his cousin, in the event of the latter's dying without issue.

Old Mr. Courtney was one of the halest of bachelors when it was announced suddenly, not only that he was dead, but that foul play was suspected. A post-mortem examination demonstrated that he had fallen a victim to poison; and it was given out that the hand which administered it was that of his favorite nephew. The public mind was naturally both surprised and shocked.

It was not until Edward Horton had been fully committed for trial for his uncle's murder that I was retained to get up the defence.

His statement was in substance this: A physician had been called in to see Mr. Courtney on the occasion of some apparently trifling illness, requiring some remedy for which a prescription was written and handed to the prisoner to be made up. This the latter had taken to a well-known, competent druggist, who had put it up in his presence. The medicine consisted of three white powders, each folded in a scrap of paper, with the whole enclosed in a single wrapper. They were to be given at intervals of an hour, and had remained continuously in the prisoner's possession till the first was administered, which was done by himself, immediately on his return from the druggist's. Mr. Courtney grew rapidly worse, and at the expiration of an hour his symptoms became so alarming that a messenger was despatched for the physician, who, on his arrival, declared that the patient was suffering from the effects of poison. An examination of the remaining powder disclosed the fact that it was *pure arsenic*. It was too late for any antidote to be available, and in less than an hour death had relieved the sufferer. An autopsy of the body and an analysis of the contents of the stomach left no doubt as to the cause of death. The presence of arsenic in a necessarily fatal quantity was indicated by every known chemical test. It was further admitted by the prisoner that he alone had access to his uncle's apartment, or had handled the medicine from the time it was compounded by the druggist till the coming of the physician after the second powder had been taken.

The druggist, who was known to be a man of extraordinary caution and thoroughly skilled in the business, was ready to swear that by no possibility could any mistake have occurred in putting up the medicine.

To make matters worse, it transpired that the amicable relations between the uncle and nephew had been somewhat disturbed of late by reason of an attachment of the latter, disapproved by the former, who had even gone so far as to threaten to change his will unless his wishes were respected.

'Who was in company with you from the time you received the medicine till you returned to your uncle's house?' I asked the prisoner, desperately groping after something to afford a ray of hope.

'No one,' he answered, 'but my cousin Charles, whom I met near the druggist's, and who accompanied me in.'

I drew from Edward the fact that Charles saw the medicine put up; talked with him a little way; then went back for something, Edward waiting his return; then they walked arm in arm nearly home, when Charles left. I also reminded Edward that, his uncle being dead, if he should also die childless, Charles would inherit the estate.

'He did it! He did it!' the young man cried, in a paroxyism of excitement too earnest to counterfeit. "He went out to get the poison when he left me waiting. He put it up to resemble the druggist's parcel, for which he substituted it as he went along. Villain—I *know* it now! I carried the parcel in the right pocket of my overcoat, and it was on *that* side he walked.'

I was seated in my office on the day preceding that fixed for the trial, indulging in anything but sanguine expectations, when a tap at the door announced a visitor. It was a detective whom I had employed.

'What is it?' I inquired, after closing the door.

'I made an arrest to-day,' he answered, 'and in the prisoner's possession found this overcoat,' undoing a package he had brought.

'Well?'

'In one of the pockets I found this,' and he handed me a parcel which I opened.

Inside were three papers folded as druggists put up their prescriptions.

'The person with whom I found this coat,' the detective continued, 'confesses that he stole it from a billiard saloon, the owner having laid it aside while playing, and the date he fixes corresponds with Mr. Courtney's murder. But, what is more important, I have ascertained *Charles Courtney is the owner of the coat!*'

'Let us proceed at once to the druggist's!' I exclaimed, springing from my chair and snatching up my hat.

We were soon there.

'Please examine that purcel" I said, putting it into the druggist's hands.

He did so, carefully opening the papers and inspecting their contents. They contained *three white powders!*

'How do they correspond with those you made up for Mr. Courtney, and for which others seem to have been so mysteriously substituted?' I inquired.

'They do not correspond at all, he answered; they are the same!"

'The same! How do you know that?'

'By these figures,' he replied, pointing to the inside of the papers. 'I had made a calculation that day on a sheet of paper, part of which I used in putting up the prescription bought by Mr. Horton. The remainder I have preserved, not knowing but that it might be important. Here it is, and you see how the pieces and figures fix it.'

They did exactly. The chain of evidence was complete!

I need hardly tell you how the trial ended. Charles Courtney was called upon by the prosecution to prove some unimportant point. The counsel whom I had retained for the defense asked him but three questions on cross examination.

Had he accompanied the prisoner from the druggist's?

Had he lost an overcoat that day?

Was that it?

The questions were very simple, but the effect upon the witness was most remarkable. He trembled and turned pale. He knew that his secret was out, and that lying was useless. He answered all three questions in the affirmative, but in a voice scarcely audible. Before the next witness was called he slipped from the court, and was never heard of afterward.

With the testimony of the detective and the druggist, not forgetting that of the thief who stole the overcoat, we made short work of what had promised to be a "beautiful case of circumstantial evidence.'

A Dutch City.

[Correspondence of the N. Y. Express.]

Our spacious room looked directly out upon the river Amstel, along which and the adjacent canal we could descry a row of Don Quixote's giants, the windmills, and also every variety of Dutch *treck-shuit*, or canal boat. Windmills are decidedly a Dutch institution, have been used for hundreds of years in Holland; and some of those used for deep drainage, ranged along the side of a canal, with their huge revolving sails seen in the twilight against the sky red with sunset, are an imposing sight, and readily conjure up the smile of a long row of sentinel-like giants tossing up their huge arms in defiance. The smaller mills are cheaply made of wood like the little ones we frequently see in America; but the larger, for drainage of land or manufacturing purposes, have a substantial foundation of brick or stone, and on this stands the mill proper, covered with a heavy straw thatch, with its great hood and enormous arms, or sails, which sweep round a circle of over one hundred feet in diameter.

Some of these run huge gangs of sawers that saw great logs nearly two feet in diameter; others are huge grain mills, the runs of stone above—the granary storage room, a stable, etc., being on the lower floor. The great pumping wind-mills will, in a fair wind, lift eight to ten thousand gallons of water per minute to the height of four feet. The foundation story of these great pumping mills is the habitation of the family whose head has charge of it, and inside is as charming and curious as an old Dutch interior, with Dutch clock, brass-mounted presses, tiled fireplace, dark old dressers with quaint crockery, and old Dutch claw-foot chairs, as one would wish to look upon. When the breeze is fair, and you climb into the upper story, and hear the tremendous shudder which the great revolving wings communicate to the huge structure as they infuse life and vigor to the great shaft or spindle that passes down through the mill like its spinal marrow, and whirls round three or four runs of heavy mill stones, or keeps the great gang-saws in steady motion, or the big wheel at its foot in one unceasing rush of water-gathering, you will realize that a Dutch wind-mill is a mechanical contrivance not to be despised.

The first walk or ride out in Amsterdam reveals to the visitor many quaint and curious scenes unlike those seen in any other European capital. Time has changed a great deal of that sleepy old romance which Washington Irving in his admirable sketches has thrown around everything Dutch in the American mind. Though you are in the land of the Van Tromps, the Peter Stuvesants and the Wouter van Twillers, you will look in vain for the steeple-crowned hats, the huge breeches—ten *ten brœks*, ten breeches to a man—or huge jackets, sleepy countenances, long clay pipes, and fat forms, surrounded by leather belts fastened with a big buckle, the small clothes, and rosetted or buckled shoes of the old burghers who dozed away their lives, as described in Knickerbocker's "History of New Netherlands."

These, like the noble red man, the cocked hats and knee-breeches, live in the poetry of the past; yet the buxom forms of the Dutch maidens, the stout ponderosity of the men, the quaint old architecture of the houses, reminding one of the old brass-ornamented high chests of drawers that belonged to his grandmother, the scrupulous cleanliness of everything, and withal the great deliberation which characterizes all transactions, show that many of the old Dutch characters remain.

Some of the guide-books, as well as travelers who visit Amsterdam, are in the habit of styling it the Venice of Holland, or "Venice of the North," but the only similarity between the two cities is that both are built upon piles and are interscected by numerous canals. In Venice, a horse in the street would be almost as great a novelty as a Bengal tiger, and the busy squares or wide streets are the exceptions, while in Amsterdam both are plentiful. Great paved streets are noisy with huge drays and rattling vehicles, and in many of the thoroughfares you would not dream of the existence of canals.—The four grand canals are in the middle of very wide streets, with rows of trees, roadways and foot passenger ways on either side. These four are in concentric semicircles within the ramparts of the city, and are intersected by numerous others that run in every direction, the principal ones being bordered by handsome rows of houses and neat promenades. The grand principal canal, or avenue I might call it, down which I took a stroll—the Hoeren Gracht—was four miles in length and shaded with beautiful elm trees. Another of these broad semi-circular avenues, the Kelzer's Gracht, or King's, was one hundred and fifty feet in width, and a most elegant avenue. The lesser canals were, of course, the crosswater streets to these grand affairs, or short cuts connecting one part of the city with the other; and the whole are said to divide it into ninety islands connected together by three hundred bridges.

The dissimilarity of Amsterdam to Venice is marked by the dreamy quiet of the latter, where no rattle of wheels or noise of traffic is heard, and where its light and graceful gondolas, tall marble palaces rising directly out of the water, its latticed iron bridges, and stillness that is broken rudely by a shout, the creak of cordage of a heavy craft, and general air of listlessness, contrast sharply with the roar and rattle of vehicles here; the forests of mast on the river, and stubbed, thickset-looking canal boats on the canals, beside which a gondola would appear as a gazelle next an elephant; in its heavy warehouses filled full of merchandise, or the taking it in and out from luggers, or even great square-rigged ships, by means of huge, creaking canes and hoisting apparatus, and the solid character of the bridge, as well as the to me curious style of drawbridges. These bridges are attached by chains to a heavy framework of wood or iron above, the two sides of the frame looking like the walking beam of a steam engine, but the machinery of it is so nicely balance that one man, or at the heavier bridges, two men, pulling downwards at the rope that hangs opposite the chains, may easily hoist the bridge for the passage of the boats.

The necessity of these drawbridges upon nearly all the canals arises from the fact that Dutch canal-boats are all provided with masts and sails, and unlike ours, depend on the wind for propulsion, or when that fails, the boatmen make slow progress by shoving their boats along with poles, or buckling themselves to the tow-rope. In the smaller family or market boats, it is not an uncommon sight to meet the woman with the loop of the tow-rope over her shoulders as she tugs along the tow-path, while the stout husband sits at the helm, steering the craft and comfortably smoking his pipe.

These canal-boats are much shorter than ours, and are oiled instead of painted, and as a general thing, kept scrupulously neat, a large number of them being the constant residences of families who operate them. Some of the heavier description which I noticed had their stern cabin windows shaped with lace curtains drawn away with blue ribbon, and little vases of flowers set in the window-seat, while upon the deck, beneath the shade of a bit of canvass, sat the Dutch *vrow* in spotless cap, gold head-band and pins, kirtle, short dress and worsted stockings, knitting away industriously as she enjoyed the cool evening air.

The varying crowd of canal boats, with the loads of merchandise which they bring into the city; the broad masculine figures of peasant women, with funny head-dresses; the lofty and narrow Dutch houses of red and yellow brick, with projecting gables, and sometimes sunk down at one side on account of the yielding nature of the foundation; the little shops where red hot turf and boiling water are sold, the latter from shining copper tea-kettles, and withal the spice-spank cleanliness of everything, are novelties that will be noticed by the tourist in his rambles about.

I was interested in watching the boat-loads of cheese and dairy products that came lazily floating down the canals, some of them guided by women, in short woolen dresses, long blue worsted stockings, wooden shoes, and curious headdresses, who put their shoulders against the padded end of a long pushing pole, and worked their boats into position with fully as much ease as the men. Indeed, except from their smooth face and difference in dress, one would see but little difference in their coarse and masculine figures. The curious head-dress worn by peasant women is a thin band of pure gold, two inches wide, that goes all around the head, and has side pieces that come down at the temples back of the eyes, in the shape of rosettes or ornaments; and over this are placed layers of thin stuff or muslin, through which the precious metal shines.—These headdresses are one of the necessities, it seems, of every woman, though, comparatively expensive affairs, the cheapest costing forty dollars, and the better ones nearly a hundred. The poorest of the peasants, who cannot get one of gold, wear silver, but never, I was told, of brass or gilt.

The old Dutch houses in some of the more business-like quarters of the city are jammed together in picturesque confusion, and fairly bulge out with merchandise; but around all is prevalent the Dutch characteristic oeder and cleanliness, which forbids the accumulation of heaps of rubbish offensive to the eye or olfactories. The wharves that I visited, to my uneducated eye, looked as swept up for Sunday; chains coiled up in place, anchors freshly painted, brass-work shining like burnished gold, the windows of the shops and houses along the water front, clear as crystal, the door sills of wood, white from polishing with soap and sand, or painted that the stain of trade might not soil them. Upon the quay, where was pointed out to us the house in which the bold Admiral De Ruyter used to live, house, though right in the very atmosphere of tar, oakum and ship chandlery, were as neat as new Philadelphia blocks of houses after a morning's wash.

But if one wants to get an idea of the enormous trade of the country, let him go down to some of the great docks, with their crowd of ships of all nations, a perfect forest of masts. The great custom house enclosure of bonded warehouses, or "Entrepot Dok," as it is called, is a wonder, in its way, and well worth the tourist's inspection. It is a vast enclosed canal, with a depth of water sufficient to admit steamer and square-rigged ships, and has admirably arranged storehouses or magazines for different descriptions of merchandise.—Here are piled up whole cargoes of coffee and sugar, vast heaps of corn, cotton, indigo, and rice; cordage and timber from Russia, tea from China, petroleum fram America. English iron and tin, with vast magazines of wines and liquors—in fact, the enormous quantities of merchandise from every part of the world fairly stagger the beholder, especially if he has been wont to deem Holland a sort of insignificant little nation, and has it chiefly associated in his mind with the product of Dutch cheese and Holland gin.

But here, with these vast storehouses, bearing the names of Cuba, America, Africa, London, Smyrna, St. Petersburg, Odessa, Archangel, Hamburg and a score of other production ports, and surrounded by shipping from every part of the civilized world, with merchandize in mountains on every side, and hundreds of busy men, the moving to and fro of the great barges that are to take their vast loads down the Rhine, the Neckar and other water courses, for distribution, he feels he is in the presence of a great commercial and maritime city.

"Two and two never make more than four," said a public speaker.—"Yes, they do," cried a boy in the audience. "Perhaps our young friend will kindly tell us when two and two make more than four," blandly said the speaker. The boy shouted: "When they are side by side, you old stupid—then they make twenty-two, don't they?"

The Steppes of Central Asia.

The steppes are the bottoms of ancient seas which once rolled over a large portion of the continent of Asia, and which, when swept by storms, rise in tumultuous waves, not of water, but of sand, the particles of which might be likened to spray, but that they burn like sparks of fire. The terror inspired by these storms is such as to deter even the most adventurous merchant from traversing the steppes in summer, unless under the most pressing necessity. Their aspect when covered with snow, is described as strangely awful and oppressive, exhibiting the expanse of the ocean, without its animation, and the solitude of the Arctic regions without their sublimity. Woe to the traveller who is overtaken by a snow-storm in the steppes; his doom is inevitable, and bodies of troops, which have essayed the perilous task of marching across the steppes in winter, have been overtaken and overwhelmed with snow. Dreary as are the steppes in winter, their aspect in spring is not without a certain beauty. The vegetation is rapid, and they are clothed with short, vivid green grass, interspersed with scarlet poppies, wild tulips, yellow larkspurs, geraniums, and many kinds of cruciferous and leguminous plants. The oases of Central Asia affords a striking contrast to the surrounding desolation, and the cities which in past ages sprung up in these favored spots abounded in everything that could gratify the heart of an Asiatic. Even in their decay they possess attractions which excite the enthusiasm of travelers, and Bokhara, Balkh, Khokan, Samarcand, Khiva and Tashkend are still celebrated for their babbling streams, bubbling fountains, delightful gardens, and deep, umbrageous groves. The oases are very carefully cultivated. Watermelons are grown over extensivs areas, and afford the most grateful alleviation to the often overpowering heat; fruits of various kinds are raised in great perfection, and tobacco of the finest quality is produced in such abundance as to place this necessary of life for an Asiatic within the reach of the poorest individual. The gardens, Mr. Schuyler says, constitute the beauty of this land. The long rows of poplar and elm trees, the vineyard, and the dark foliage of the pomegranate, transport one at once to the plains of Lombardy, or the south of France. In the early spring the cities and their vicinity are one mass of white and pink, with the bloom of almond, peach, cherry, apple, apricot and plum trees, which perfume the air for miles around. These gardens are the favorite resorts of the people in summer, and well they may be, for nowhere are fruits more abundant, and of some varieties nowhere are they better. The apricots and nectarines it would be impossible to surpass. Peaches, though smaller in size, are said to possess a higher flavor than the best of England. The large blue plums of Bokhara are celebrated over the whole of Asia. There are in common cultivation ten varieties of melons. In that hot climate they are considered particularly wholesome, and in summer form one of the principle articles of food. An acre of land properly prepared will produce in ordinary years from two to three thousand, and in good years double that quantity.

BEET SUGAR.—The world now produces more beet root than cane sugar: and the United States would profit by imitating the example thus set. Could we raise what we consume at home, it would save us over $50,000,000 a year.

During cholera times, an undertaker, being asked by a lady who was employing him at some household work, whether he would have a glass now or wait until he had finished his job. "I'll be takin' the glass noo mem," said the artisan, "for there's been a power o' sudden deaths lately."

Gleanings.

The value of the hay crop in this country is shown by governmental statistics. In 1875 it was third in the list of farm products in respect to increase, and second as regards the value of the crop. Under Indian corn there were forty-four millions acres, twenty-six millions in wheat, and twenty-two millions in grass for hay. These crops alone aggregated ninety-three millions acres out of one hundred and twenty-three millions under cultivation, of which reports were published. The value of the products for the same year is set down as follows: Indian corn, $554,445,930; hay, $342,203,465; wheat, $296,260,260; cotton, $272,493,440; oats, $120,... tobacco, $30,342,609; barley, $29,963,082; rye, $13,631,900; buckwheat, $7,165,267, the hay crop being worth nearly 20 per cent. of the value of all the farm products of the country.

Buckwheat, says the Germantown *Telegraph*, is a native of Asia, and was brought to this country by the earliest settlers. It was cultivated by the Dutch along the Hudson as early as 1626, and afterwards in the settlements of the Swedes on the Delaware. From these sections its cultivation spread over New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, wherever clearings were made, and buckwheat cakes and wild honey at that early period were a common and much appreciated dish. The three states named have since been great producers of the grain, and its cultivation is extending so rapidly through the North and Northwest that the present annual yield exceeds 30,000,000 bushels.

Brain work, and that of the clearest kind, comes into profitable play quite as well on the farm as anywhere else.—Look ahead, get a just view of the position; have ploughing, sowing, harvesting, and selling all done at the proper time. Never hurry, but always drive work ahead. Know in the evening what you intend to do the next day. Have your rainy day and your clear day occupation designed before hand. Always bring into requisition the full means for compassing the desired ends. In short, study and understand your business, and you will enjoy it, and thrive at it.—*Cincinnati Gazette.*

Now is the time to stop leaks in the barn. A board here and there; a good glazed window in place of a broken shutter; warm, dry litter, in place of a foul wet bed; a tight roof and a plastered or double-boarded ceiling, all these are actually worth more than an extra portion of food to an animal, because, although when cold and chilled it eats the more, yet it thrives poorly; while if well housed, it will keep sleek and thrifty upon comparatively moderate feeding.

The Elmira Farmer's Club, according to the reports in the *Husbandman*, have been experimenting with dynamite in blowing out stumps and rocks with very good success. The conclusion is, that dynamite must become a useful agent in clearing land of stumps and rocks, and with very little danger.

The Eucalyptus Globulus, planted in Jamaica some six years ago, have acclimatized themselves so thoroughly on the plateaus of this island, that many have attained a height of 60 feet, with a trunk of one foot in diameter near the earth. They do not prosper on the low lands of the island.—*La Nature.*

Evils of Gossip.

We have known a country society which withered away to nothing under the dry rot of gossip only. Friendships, once as firm as granite, dissolved to jelly, and then run away to water only, because of this; love that promised a future as enduring and as stable as truth, evaporated into a mist that turned to a day's long tears, only because of this; a father and a son were set foot to foot with the fiery breath of anger that would never cool again between them; and a husband and a young wife, each straining at the hatred lash which in the beginning had been the promise of a God-blessed love, sat mournfully by the side of the grave where all their joy lay buried, and all because of this. We have seen faith transformed to mean doubt, joy give place to grim despair, and charity take on itself the features of black malevolence, all because of the fell words of scandal, and the magic mutterings of gossip. Great crimes work great wrongs, and the deeper tragedies of human life spring from the larger passions; but woeful and most mournful are the uncatalogued tragedies that issued from gossip and detraction; most mournful the shipwreck often made of noble natures and lovely lives by the bitter winds and dead salt-waters of slander. So easy to say, yet so hard to disprove—throwing on the innocent all the burden and the strain of demonstrating their innocence, and punishing them as guilty if unable to pluck out the stings they never see and do silence words they never hear—gossip and slander are the deadliest and cruelest weapons man has ever forged for his brother's heart.

The People's Press.

SALEM, N. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 1878.

NOTICE.—All persons indebted to this office, by *note* or *account*, would confer a special favor by calling and settling, as we need money.

THE PRESS will be mailed to new subscribers from the present time to January 1st 1879 at $2 per copy. Subscribe now.

The Week of Prayer.

The following is the programme issued by the Evangelical Alliance for the Week of Prayer:

Sunday, January 6th. — SERMONS — Christian Union perfected.

Monday, January 7th.—PRAYER AND PRAISE—Remembrance of personal and relative mercies; prayer for the divine blessing on past privileges, and for a humble and contrite spirit.

Tuesday, January 8th.—PRAYER—FOR THE CHURCH OF CHRIST in all lands; for its deliverance from error; for its increase in faith and holiness, and in power as a witness for the Lord Jesus Christ; for the grace and guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Wednesday, January 9th.—PRAYER—FOR CHRISTIAN FAMILIES; for sick and afflicted members; for children at school, and for all youth in our colleges and seminaries of learning; for young men entering upon the active business of life, and for those abroad; for our sons and daughters openly confessing Christ.

Thursday, January 10th.—PRAYER—FOR NATIONS; for rulers, magistrates' and statesmen; for the army and navy; for all benevolent and philanthropic institutions; for religious liberty and the opening of doors "wide and effectual" for publishing the Gospel; and for the reign of righteousness and peace.

Friday, January 11th. — PRAYER—FOR CHRISTIAN MISSIONS to the Jews and Gentiles; for Sunday-schools; and for the divine blessing on all Christian efforts to spread the glad tidings of the Gospel of Salvation.

Saturday, January 12th.—PRAYER—FOR THE CIRCULATION OF THE BIBLE; for the observance of the Sabbath; for the removal of intemperance; for the rescue of the fallen; for the safety of those who travel by land and by water.

Sunday, January 13th. — SERMONS—Christian life. "Let your light shine."

☞ We repeat that, although we are not responsible for the views of others in our columns, yet we do not desire to publish personal controversies in any shape. Parties should remember that such articles are rather expensive as advertisements, and very few readers take an interest in them.

THE NEW YEAR.

The year 1877 is a thing of the past, and we enter the new year by extending to all our readers a most hearty greeting, hoping that the coming months may bring them prosperity and happiness.

Though our surroundings in this section of country might have been much worse than they have been, yet it cannot be denied that 1877 financially was an unfavorable year. Abundant crops we have been blessed with, for which we are truly thankful, hoping that the incoming year may bring forth more abundantly of greenbacks or specie.

The schools in our community are more promising than for years past, and our section has been comparatively free from plagues and epidemics, although individuals have had their seasons of special trial.

The political prospect is also much brighter than last year. Our readers will remember that at this time last year, the great presidential question was highly agitated, and the shades of war seemed to be even gathering over our fair land. Yet we were spared the harrowing scenes of a bloody struggle, and all is now peace and quiet, with the exception of a few political malcontents.

Hoping that the bright prospects for the country at large may also be shared by the PRESS as a portion of the community, we once more wish all our readers

A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

GOOSE-BONE.—The goose-bone says we are to have cold weather in January, the last of the month to be the coldest known for years. February will be a cold, blustering month, and winter will without doubt go a good way along with spring, carrying cold weather and snow into March. Those who take stock in the goose bone will lay in their fuel and keep plenty of warm clothing about the house.

THANKS to A. N. Zevely, Esq., for a bound volume of Postmaster-General's Report.

The President and lady celebrated their silver wedding.

THE WAR IN EUROPE.

The latest despatches from the seat of war shows to us the Porte (Turkey) in the attitude of asking for the intervention, or rather the negotiation of the powers of Europe to secure peace. Russia claims that according to international law, this is impossible, since such negotiations cannot take place till the request is made by both of the belligerent parties. Besides this refusal to have outside interference, Russia has ordered 1,200 Krupp field guns, which looks anything but peaceful.

When speaking, in a recent editorial, of the fall of Plevna, we stated that Osman Pasha had made a glorious stand, and that although defeated yet his actions had won the admiration even of his enemies. It seems, however, from later revelations, that this is not the real state of the case, for the total absence of Russian prisoners has caused an investigation to be made, and it is now supposed that he made way with them in a foul manner. If this be true, such cruelty and inhumanity will forever stamp his name with infamy, and may cost him his life at the hands of his captors, the Russians. Such barbarity as the slaughter of unarmed and defenceless prisoners cannot be tolerated at the present day; it is a characteristic of an age and state of society not to be found at present in the civilized world.

INDIAN TROUBLES IN THE WEST.

Again the noise of strife and contending parties reach us from the West. It seems that the cause may be partly traced (as is so often the case) to the actions of the U. S. Government. Certain Indian tribes, which were to receive regular rations according to the treaty made with them, have failed to receive the same; and at a season when fields and mountains were covered with snow, were suddenly without food or any means of obtaining it. When they came to the agency begging bread for their starving families, nothing could be given them. It seems that they bore thus far with the failure of the government to come up to its agreement. Now, however, there seems to be a great fermentation going on. The Cheyennes, Sioux and Nez Perces are all on the war path, and it is very probable that the old desperado, known as Sitting Bull, will come to the front. It is said that he has, or can have, 1000 warriors, fresh and well rested, with which to attack the whites. It is to be deplored that the army now on the frontier is not at all prepared to successfully meet so fierce an onset as these warriors are able to make. Officers and men have been killed, till the ranks are much weakened, while those who do remain are worn out and not able to resist a great force. What then can be done? The poor settlers on the frontiers are the ones to whom the question comes with the greatest force. For an insufficiency in the ranks of the soldiers shows to them pictures of burning homes, murdered wives and children, and fields laid waste and destroyed.

The Indians are becoming so troublesome that we cannot but long for the time to come when the picture of the poet, which shows the Indian race departing with the setting-sun, may be realized. It would be better for the Indian, and it would be decidedly better for the whites.

We speak knowingly when we assert that Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer is the best article of the kind sold on the American Continent. Personal trial has demonstrated this, and the article is an elegant and cleanly one without which we think no toilet complete. Messrs. Johnson, Holloway & Co., 602 Arch street, Philadelphia, are the agents for the article, and when our Philadelphia friends return from Cape May, they should certainly procure some of it. We know of no such article extant for the hair, and thus speak in such decided and emphatic terms.—*Ocean Foam, Cape May, N. J.*

AN ENORMOUS GRAIN CROP IN RUSSIA.—*Washington*, Dec. 12.—The U. S States Consul at Odessa reports that the grain crop of Southern Russia for 1877 has been the largest harvested during twenty-five years. Merchants of the Continent and England purchased enormous quantities of grain at a very low price in the depreciated currency, and is stored, awaiting the cessation of hostilities for shipment. It will take its place in the markets of the world at so small a cost to the purchasers and it will no doubt have a depressing influence upon the price of grain from other countries, a fact that is worthy of note by American exporters of grain.

An old Baltimore negro who had emigrated to Liberia years ago, ordered a quantity of Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup a short time ago, stating that although coughs and colds were not frequent in Africa, he would not like to be without it in his family. 25 cts.

Manufacturing—North and South.

[From the New York Times.]

* * * After conceding all these and many other advantages to the South, however, we can find no sufficient proof of the statement that the Southern States will, in the not far distant future, control the greater part of the trade now held by the manufacturers of New England. It cannot be denied that the cotton mills of the South have rapidly increased during the past eight or ten years, or that in the majority of cases they have, even in dull times, made large profits. There is every reason to believe that under intelligent and enterprising management this prosperity will not only continue but increase. Indeed, it is now certain, according to reliable statements recently published, that the Southern mills will be doubled in number and capacity during the next two years. But all this does not argue that the New England factories must close their doors and go out of business. They still have, and will continue to have, over their rival, the advantage of abundant capital, the latest improvements in machinery, skilled labor that cannot be excelled in the world, and a situation which makes it possible for them to deal directly with all the markets of this country and Europe. The mills of the South have increased and are increasing in number, but the same statement is also true of the North. They will continue to multiply as long as they continue to find new markets, and that they are doing daily. According to competent and trustworthy authority, it appears that during the eleven months of the year already passed, 115,338 packages of cotton goods of Northern manufacture were exported from New York and Boston, while during the same period in 1876 only 87,000 packages were sent out, and in 1875 only 44,500. There is every reason to believe that this foreign trade will continue to increase, and as it is chiefly in the finer sorts of cotton goods, there need be no fear of successful competition from the South. That section will doubtless find abundant opportunity at home to dispose of the admirable quality of coarse cloths made there; and for the excellent cotton blankets manufactured in Columbus there will doubtless continue to be a good market in the West. The trade in shirtings, sheeting, and other fine goods, however, will naturally and for obvious reasons remain for an indefinite period in the hands of the New England manufacturers.

Maintenance of Lunatics Outside of the Asylum.

We publish the following circular letter from Auditor Love for the benefit of all concerned:

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.
AUDITOR'S DEPARTMENT.

SIR:—Yours of the — inst., concerning the maintenance of lunatics prior to the passage of the last "Act of the General Assembly in relation to the maintenance of lunatics outside of the Insane Asylum," ratified March 12 1877, is at hand. I am unable at present to answer your question further than to say, I presume it will be a matter of legislation for the next General Assembly.—As the case now stands, however, I can only audit claims of that character under the Act of March 12th, 1877, consequently no claim for the maintenance of lunatics outside of the Insane Asylum can be audited until January 1st, 1878, dating in no case anterior to the passage of the act, March 12th, 1877. For instance, those who were insane before and at the time of the passage of the last act on this subject (March 12th, 1877,) are all allowed support by the State from that date to the 1st of January, 1878, at the rate of $100 per annum.

Those who have become insane since the 12th of March, 1877, are allowed support at the same rate, from the date of the inquisition declaring them insane; but no claim of this character can be audited until January 1st, 1878.

Blank forms for making out accounts furnished by this Department when applied for. Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SAMUEL L. LOVE,
State Auditor.

FROM LIBERIA.

We have been favored with the perusal of a very interesting letter from our young friend S. C. Lemly, U. S. Navy, who was recently in Liberia, Africa. By permission, we make an extract, which will be found interesting:

The first attempt at colonization of free blacks under the auspices of the American Colonization Society, was made in the very unhealthy locality of Sherbro, and was abandoned in 1821 for Cape Mesurada, the site of Monrovia, the present capital of Liberia. The Colonization Society purchased the land from the first settlers, and added to it from time to time, and continued to send out recruits, until in 1847 the management of the public affairs were turned over to the people themselves, who proceeded to form a government after the style of the United States, in almost every particular, especially the Constitution which was almost an exact copy of our own. Their flag is barred like ours with a single star on a blue field. The American Colonization Society lends them a helping hand, under stipulated contract with our government for necessary aid and protection, consequently a Man-of-War visits these parts every year, to give assistance if necessary.—The area of the country has been extended, until it includes a coast line of some sixty miles, running back some 20 to 40 miles, covering nearly 10,000 square miles, with a population of some 20,000 colonists and their descendants, and about 60,000 Aborigines. The President is elected for two years and the Cabinet, consisting of Secretary of State, Secretary of Treasury, Secretary of Interior, Attorney General and Post Master. The latter has been abolished, as it was unnecessary, the business being too small.

Most of the people are black,—genuine negroes,—but a true credit to their race. With a little judicious management on the part of the United States, something might be made of these people, but they lack go-a-headativeness, I fear. What they particularly want is colonization of the proper sort, i. e., men of industry and energy, mechanics, farmers and educated men, not hordes of lazy vagabonds such as the Colonization Society has sent out lately. The climate is unfavorable for the first year or two, and many die, but after once becoming acclimated, no danger need be anticipated.

Coffee trees grow luxuriantly, with little or no attention, and the bean is of an excellent quality. Cotton, sugar and palm-oil are the remaining exports, but, except the latter, which like coffee, needs no cultivation, they are produced in very small quantities. Probably $100,000 per annum will cover the revenues of the country, these being made up of import and export duties, and taxes on real estate. The salary of the President is $2,500 and those of the other officials in proportion, but they are paid in the ser p of the country, which is now much depreciated. Following the example of the mother republic they have had a ring, which though on a much smaller scale than ours, does them credit. Some four or five years since they negotiated a loan of $500,000 in England, to be used for internal improvements. Through some means or other, this dwindled down, before reaching the country, to $200,000 and even that comparatively small amount was misappropriated.—This debt they have upon their shoulders still, and it is as much as they can do to pay the interest. If the United States does not help them out (not directly I mean,) but by establishing a line of steamers between New York and Monrovia, and opening the commerce of the country, I am afraid England will absorb them. Indeed I think the United States might even assume the loan, in order to prevent the English getting a slice of the country, which they are certain to do sooner or later, if we do not interfere. In fact, the English traders are already encroaching upon the rights of the Liberians.

Of course the colonists come in contact frequently with the aborigines, but I think on the whole, they manage better than we do with our Indians.

Only a few years since they had quite a conflict with the Grebors, and got the worst of it until the U. S. Steamer Alaska arrived, and interferred in their behalf.

The Liberians seem to be alive to the importance of education, and have a number of good schools. As to churches, the Methodist, Episcopal and Baptist are represented here, the first of these taking the lead in point of numbers.

The public buildings are by no means imposing in appearance. The Senate and House of Representativer are in separate buildings, but near together.—The Presidential mansion is quite a substantial, comfortable looking building, but not handsome. The general appearance of the entire town, reminds me very much of an old dilapidated town.

In mentioning the aborigines, I did not forget, but left for special notice the Kroomen, who do nearly all the work of the ships which come here, owing to the fact that it is too warm for the regular crews to do anything. These people hang around the principal ports, and when they see a vessel coming in, pull out for miles, in their canoes, to meet them. As we were coming in, steaming along, full power, they came out in large numbers, dashing along side and clinging to our life-lines. Sometimes they succeeded in getting aboard, at others, their canoes were capsized, and they were left paddling about in the water. In this latter case they did not at all seem put out, but bailed the water out their boats and got into them again, literally paddling their own canoes. Their costume is what may be described in general terms as light and airy, but does not admit of an extended description, though I assure you it would not consume much time to do it.

Each of them carries a tin box, slung around his neck, by a string, containing recommendations from former employers. The first Captain under whom they ship gives them a name, by which they go ever after, and some of these cognomens are very ridiculous. We have 20 Kroomen employed, and prominently among them are, Tom Coffee, Black Will, Tom Dollar, Pea Soup, Beau Hickman, Fore Top, Tom Boatswain, Tea Pot, Jack Everyday, Tom Twotimes, Two-Round-Ten, Soda Water, and last, but not least, Up-Side-Down, notwithstanding that to all intents and purposes he is "right-side-up." The funny part of it is that they answer to these names with all the gravity of judges, and seem to have no idea whatever that there is anything incongruous about them.

There is a Kroo village on the outskirts of Monrovia, which I visited the other day. The huts are built of bamboo, and thatched overhead with grass. The floors are of dirt, but beaten down so hard that even in the wettest weather, they are perfectly firm. Everything about the village indicated cleanliness, but in a very crude state. Cooking, eating and sleeping are performed in the one small room, of which most of the huts consist. The people, I believe, work very little, living generally on the natural products of the soil, and fish.—They are large and finely formed, have magnificent teeth, are cheerful in disposition, as most negroes are, and are singing nearly all the time, even when hard at work. Some of their songs, too, while they are weird, queer chants, are strangely musical.

Advertisement.

Messrs. Editors of the Press and Sentinel:

GENTLEMEN: Please publish an answer to an advertisement published in your papers from Johnson Vest against the Commissioners appointed to lay off one acre of land for a school-house on his land, not on any other persons, which, he says, through spite, tried to damage him all we could, which is as big a lie as ever he told. We had no malice against the man. Now we intend to show to the public that it is his own tongue and conduct that is damaging him so much and not the Commissioners.

Perhaps the public are not aware that he is a member of the church, an official member. Now we will show how his walk corresponds with his profession.—We will give, in as short a way as we can, our proceedings and his conduct.

We met at the corner of his land on the road; he there had commenced a little building about the size of a hen house; he told us that he had reserved that place for his own use. We then asked him where he had rather we would take it; he takes us down the road.—Here the road is the line from one corner to the other; at the other corner he there steps over on a piece of land belonging to the heirs of Levi Crater; he says there was the best place to build and insisted that we should lay it off there, knowing at the same time we had no authority to go on other people's land. We then asked him if he wanted us to lay it off on that corner of his land? He said no, that was his meadow land. We did not see any grass there; perhaps he had just mowed. Gentlemen, do you think meadow land suitable for a school-house? This is the place he has offered to give. Now it has but little timber on it. Now we went back a short distance until we got off of his meadow land, to where we thought it might answer. He objected here. We were over two hundred yards from his reserved corner, where he says it was only fifty. By this time the Devil, or something else, had got the upper hand of him so that there was not a particle of reason or sense in him; his ears and nose jerked, and eyes snapped and tongue rattled, that one present would of thought the woods was full of lightning bugs and cow bells and dogs after them at that.—He forbid us running anywhere on his land. We then went to the road on the line and sat down to consult; and he left and went home, as he says; we doubt that. And every time that he tells that we pretented to go home without laying off the land, he tells a lie. Now we wished to get as far from his reserved corner as we could, to get a place suitable to build on, and we had to be governed by the situation of the ground and line. There were two small hollows and a ridge; between that ridge was just large enough to set a house on. We could not reach that by laying it off square is the reason we made it longer one way than the other, and so he tells another lie when he says we done it to damage him or for spite.

He makes out that he is so good and pious that he wont do anything to injure his neighbor. Well let us see what a low down, mean, unprincipled act he done to damage his nearest neighbor, James Butner, to run a public road through his land when there was a good road around on the line; had a jury there, and they laid it off where it was. If it had run through Butner's land, it would have damaged him over fifty dollars. That shows his principle, what he would do to his neighbors. Now, Johnson, be careful how you cast stones if you don't want your painted jacket pelted. Now he was just like the dog that stole the piece of beef: As he went home he had to cross a creek; in crossing, he saw his shadow in the creek and thought it was another piece of meat in another dog's mouth So he grabbed at the shadow and lost all that he had. That is just the way Vest was about getting Butner's land for a road.

Now we think that he will have a plenty to answer for himself at the judgment day. I think Henry Snyder's case will do for him. It is a piece in one of Blum's Almanacs; it is in part, as follows:

This Henry Snyder had two neighbors; they all three had mills. It happened that some little difficulty occurred between them about their mills. So Henry Snyder concluded to try all three of their cases himself, and passed judgment accordingly. He commenced on George Fulwider first, and then Jake, himself last. Shorge Fulwider stand up: "What has you been doin' in dis lower world?" "Ah Lort I does not know." "Well, Shorge, hasn't you got a mill?" "Yes, Lort, I has." "Well, Shorge, didn't you never take too much toll?" "Yes, Lort, I has; when der water was low and my stones wash dull, I took a leetle too much toll." "Well, den Shorge, you must go to der left mit der goats. "Well, Shake Fulwider, now you stand up": "What has you been doin' in dis lower world?" "Ah Lort, I does not know." The trial was just the same in this case.

"Now I tries mineself": "Henry Snyder, what has you been doin' in dis lower world?" "Ah Lort, I does not know." "Well, Henry Snyder, hasn't you got a mill?" "Yes Lort, I has." "Well, Henry, didn't you take too much toll?"—"Yes, Lort, I has; when der water wash low and mine stones wash dull, I hash taken a leetle too much toll." "But Henry, vat did you do mit der toll?" "Ah Lort, I gives it to der poor."—(Pausing) "Well, Henry Snyder, you must go to der right, mit der sheep, but it is a tam tight squeeze."

That is just the way Vest has been sitting on his throne, judging us Commissioners. Now, if you are not satisfied, pick your flint and try it again. We have plenty of ammunition yet.

JOHN CRATER,
JOHN BUTNER.
ASA JONES.

Sentinel please copy.

LIPPINCOTT'S MAGAZINE,

AN ILLUSTRATED MONTHLY OF

Literature, Science and Art.

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SERIAL & SHORT STORIES, SKETCHES, OF TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE, ESSAYS ON POPULAR QUESTIONS OF THE DAY, POEMS, REVIEWS, etc., etc., etc.

Among the attractions for the new year, the publishers would call attention to the SERIAL NOVELS, embracing "FOR PERCIVAL," a charming story of English life, handsomely illustrated, and A NEW AMERICAN STORY, by ELLEN W. OLNEY, the talented author of "Love in Idleness," which will be commenced on the conclusion of "For Percival."

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1 TOP BUGGY,
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Lodge Directory.

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F. M. KEITH, Secretary.

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Post Office Directory.

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As no mails arrive or depart on Sunday, the office will not be open on that day.

TIME OF ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE OF MAILS.

RAILROAD, from Greensboro to Salem closes every day, except Snuday, at 7:15, a. m. Due every day, except Sunday, at 7:30 p. m.

MOUNT AIRY, via. Winston, Old Town, Bethania, Five Forks, Dalton, Pilot Mountain, Flat Shoals and Tom's Creek. Closes Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 6:30, a. m. Due Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, by 6, p. m.

MADISON, via. Winston, Sedge Garden, Gemanton, Walnut Cove, Sauratown and Pine Hall. Closes, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at 6:30, a. m. Due Monday, Wednesday and Friday by 5, p. m.

HUNTSVILLE, via. Clemmonsville, Lewisville and Panther Creek. Closes Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 6:30, a. m. Due Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday by 3, p. m.

FULTON, via. Friedberg, Advance and Edwville, closes every Friday, at 6:30, A. M. Due every Saturday, by 8, A. M.

RICHMOND HILL, via. Mount Tabor, Vienna, Red Plains and East Bend. Closes Monday and Friday at 7 a. m. Due Tuesday and Saturday by 2, p. m.

H. W. SHORE, P. M.

JOB PRINTING,

of every description done at this Office, in First Class Style, and upon the most reasonable terms.

LOCAL ITEMS.

THE Wild Cat is about to peg out.

MR. J. HALL has accepted a position as a teacher in the Boy's School.

THE SILVER CORNETS gave a general serenade Thursday night.

MEETING of the County Board of Commissioner's Monday.

INFERIOR COURT of Forsyth County meets 2nd Monday in February.

READ the List of unclaimed Letters at the Post Office.

DIARIES.—A few more at the Bookstore.

A QUAKERESS preacher held service in the Methodist P. Church.

STOCKHOLDERS of the First National Bank meet on Tuesday, 8th inst.

THE severe storm of Saturday night was rather hard on the town lamps. A number of chimneys were broken.

SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS belonging to the estate of the late Dr. A. T. Zevely, for sale. Enquire at the BOOKSTORE. *

A SOCIAL HOP, No. 1, was given at the Central Hotel on last Thursday night.

THE stock members of the water-supply company meet on the 10 inst., for organization.

MR. C. A. WINKLER has removed his Winston confectionery to the store room 1 door above Crosland's establishment.

WHEELBARROW ROLLINGS afforded some amusement in Winston during the Holdays.

GOODS are offered at reduced prices at Mr. J. L. Fulkerson's cheap store. See his new advertisement.

A NEW YEAR'S HOP, No. 2, at the Central Hotel Tuesday night. A gay and pleasant time to participants.

PREACHING.—We are requested to announce that there will be preaching at Tise's Hall, next Sunday at 3 o'clock P. M.

ELSEWHERE we give interesting extracts from a letter received from Liberia, Africa.

Messrs. E. STRUPE and E. CHITTY are going into the tin-ware manufacturing business in Winston on a big scale. Will occupy the Calum Drug Store building.

THE LOVEFEAST of the Young Men's Missionary Society will take place on Saturday evening the 19th inst. A collection will be taken up at the close.

COMPLIMENTARY.—Mr. C. A. Rominger has presented us with a complimentary ticket for the 43rd anniversary of Wake Forest College.

CLINGMAN'S BOOK, being selections from the speeches and writings of Hon. Thos. L. Clingman, of N. C., with additions and explanatory notes. For sale at the BOOKSTORE. *

A NUMBER of visitors spent the holidays in Salem and Winston. Are pleased to learn the short sojourns were pleasant to all.

NOTICE of dedication of Schoolhouse in South Fork township, handed in too late for this week's issue. Shall be attended to next week.

A MUSICAL CONCERT at Tise's Hall to-night, (Thursday.) for benefit of the new Episcopalian Church. Some of our best talent will assist and the Concert will be good. Admittance 25 cents.

WE call attention to the new advertisement of Messrs. Blum Repairing of anything in their line readily attended too. Give them a call and satisfy yourself.

THE WEEK OF PRAYER commences in the Moravian Church, Sunday, the 6th. Services every night during the week. We give the subjects in another column.

A COLORED youth was severely sliced up in an affray occurring at a ball given in Hinshaw's Hall one night last week. Razors were the weapons used. The parties were arrested and justice meted out by the town authority.

VERY NEAT. — The proprietors of Lash's Warehouse, Messrs. Pierce, Hanes and Brown, have issued a New Year's greeting in the shape of a very neat little card, to their friends and patrons.

Mr. M. C. LEACH, near Nicholson's Mill, in this county, commenced hunting in September last and caught 78 opossums by the end of December.

Notice.—All those citizens who signed the preamble for the organization of a new Reading Club are respectfully requested to attend a meeting in the Commissioner's Hall on Saturday evening, at 7½ o'clock, 5th Inst., for the purpose of thorough organization.

PERSONALS. — Mr. E. Lockett and Lady have returned from their bridal tour and taken up their abode in Winston.

Mr. Durham, of the Marble Yard is on a visit to Raleigh.

Dr. A. Susdorff of New York, made a short sojourn among his relatives in Winston, last week.

Mrs. Early, with two Miss Earlys, are at present visiting relatives and friends in Salem.

SENTENCE COMMUTED.—We learn that the death sentence of Davis has been commuted.

Rev. W. G. HAMILTON, Conference Evangelist of the Methodist P. Church, commences a series of meetings, at Waughtown, on Friday night the 18th instant.

READING CLUB.—At a meeting of the Reading Club the following officers were elected for the ensuing term:

Frank Fries—President.
Jno. Schott—Secretary.
Wm. Bahnson—Treasurer.
Charles Shore and L. Butner—Room Committee.

THE BAPTIST CHURCH was graced with a beautiful Christmas tree during the Holidays, upon which were placed gifts for distribution for the Sunday School scholars and others.

Wednesday evening of last week a large crowd was in attendance to hear the address of the pastor, Rev. H. A. Brown, and witness the distribution of presents. Beautiful songs, well rendered by the Sunday School, were also a pleasant feature of the evening.

SURRY COUNTY.—A subscriber, under date of Dec. 27, gives us the following items from Surry, and the hymenial notices, placed under proper head:

R. E. & M. E. Reeves have recently shipped 40,000 pounds of manufactured tobacco.

Yadkin and Ararat rivers several feet above common water level.

We understand a farmer last week, killed four hogs, weighing 800 lbs,—one two year old, weighed 581bs.

SURGICAL OPERATIONS.—Several very critical surgical operations were recently performed by Dr. Bahnson, assisted by other members of the profession.—One, the removal of a stone, the other of a gravel from the bladder.

He likewise amputated the leg of another sufferer, the limb having become diseased from white swelling.

This community may feel justly proud of her medical faculty, fully equal to that of any other in the country, both as physicians or surgeons.

NEW YEAR'S SERVICES IN THE MORAVIAN CHURCH.—The services were of a very solemn and impressive character which accompanied the departure of the old year and welcomed the advent of the new. At 4½ o'clock, P. M., a special service was held for the children, and at 8 o'clock, the pastor, Rev. Edward Rondthaler, preached a very edifying sermon, basing his discourse on the parable of the unfruitful fig tree. The congregation at this service was very large, surpassed only by that which filled the church at the midnight service.

During both these services the seats were crowded and the aisles were filled with benches and chairs.

At 11½ o'clock the watch-meeting or midnight service was held, and at 12 o'clock the New Year was ushered in by the Church Band and members of the Silver Cornets, playing tune 146 in the Moravian Tune Book, and the congregation singing the beautiful hymn beginning

"Now let us praise the Lord,
With body soul and spirit."

We are glad that this old and much loved custom of welcoming the New Year with the strains of music from the Church Band has been revived; it certainly added much to the solemnity of the occasion.

On Tuesday morning, at 10 o'clock, Bishop deSchweinitz delivered an instructive sermon to a large congregation.

On Tuesday night the Memorobilia of the Salem congregation was read. From it we learn that there are 754 members in connection with Salem congregation; and that in the six or eight regular collections during the year, $427 50 had been contributed to various causes. This is, of course, entirely distinct from special collections through societies or otherwise, being only the basket collections. In the neighboring congregations, together with Salem, there are 1,942 souls, all told.

The Tuesday evening meeting closed the services peculiar to the festive season.

EAST SALEM SUNDAY SCHOOL.—Early in the year 1877, (February) Mrs. White, of East Salem, seeing the need of a School for the children of that vicinity, proposed to open a Sunday School, if some friends would supply her with books. This was promptly done, and in a short time a few scholars were gathered together in her own house. As the number increased, Mr. A. Fogle kindly allowed Mrs. White to occupy a vacant house, where the school was conducted until recently. In June last, Mr. George F. Bahnson, having graduated at the Theological Seminary, in Bethlehem, Pa., returned home, and commenced preaching. Seeing the necessity for a place of worship, he solicited contributions and succeeded finely. Dr. Shaffner having given a suitable lot, the neat and tasty chapel was erected. The dedication took place on December 16th. The exercises were very interesting, and witnessed by a large congregation. The Sunday School scholars sang some of their beautiful hymns very nicely, after which Harvey Giersch, in behalf of Salem Sunday School, in a very neat address, presented the School with a bell. Master — Rank, of East Salem School, acknowledged the donation, very appropriately. Mr. Byron Spach read a passage of Scripture. Rt. Rev. E. A. deSchweinitz conducted the consecration services, and Rev. Edward Rondthaler preached the sermon.

During the Christmas holidays the children were made glad with a celebration, which was well attended. The scholars sang charmingly and spoke well.

The School is now superintended by Mr. Henry Fries, assisted by several ladies. The work is very encouraging, and shows how earnest workers in the noble cause are always rewarded beyond their most sanguine expectations.

WE are pleased to notice that our young friend John Henry Boner, formerly of this office, has been elected President of the Columbia Typegraphical Union of Washington City. The contest was spirited, resulting as follows: John H. Boner, 322, Jesse Judge, 101, and David W. Beach, 98,—giving Mr. Boner a majority over both candidates, of 123 votes. This is a flattering testimonial of regard by his fellow craftsmen.

WE now enter upon a new year, and to all our friends and patrons we extend a cordial greeting, hoping that it may be one of happiness and prosperity.—To those who have so kindly favored us with their patronage during the past year, we return our sincere thanks, and with our best wishes, for their future welfare, we take occasion to inform them that we are now selling all kinds of Hardware, at greatly reduced prices, for cash. Respectfully,

S. E. ALLEN,
Winston, N. C., Jan., 1878. †

OPENING EXERCISES AT THE BOY'S SCHOOL.—The Summer term of the Boy's school was opened yesterday morning at 8½ o'clock. Rev. Edward Rondthaler the President, presided, and there were present a large number of parents and friends of the school, both ladies and gentlemen. The exercises consisted of singing, prayer and an address by the President. In addition to the two teachers before engaged—Messrs. Lichtenthaler and Clewell—the services of Mr. James Hall have been secured.—We are not able to give the exact number of scholars in attendance, but think it was between 40 and 50. The school is at present in a very flourishing condition. Those of our friends who live at a distance and who contemplete sending their sons to this institution would do well to do so as soon as possible, as a thorough revision of the classes is being made and late comers may not so easily find their proper places as if they were present at the beginning of the term.

Mrs. H. ORMSBY before leaving for New York, wishes to sell privately some extra articles of household furniture.—Any person wishing to inspect the same can do so by calling at the residence of Mr. Wm. Ormsby, near Fogle Bros., before Saturday the 5th if convenient, as Mrs. O. will leave the 1st of next week.

LIST OF LETTERS

REMAINING IN THE POST OFFICE AT SALEM, N. C., January 1st, 1878.

E B Daniels, Wm H Dothier, Miss L C Fishel, Miss Mary M Holder, F M Hardgrove, Mrs. William Gates, Thomas Jones, Sam'l W Leherr, Mary Parnel, 2, N T Purdy, Rufus Price, Miss Ann Rainey, Joseph Rothrock, E C Rights, Norris Savage, Mrs Mary E Stewart, Riley Smith, Lucinda Snyder, S N Smiley, Wm H Stone, H C Watkins, W A Whitaker, Dr J A Wilson.

H. W. SHORE, P. M.

Kernersville Letter.

KERNERSVILLE, Dec. 31st, 1877.

Messrs. Editors:—I see in the last PRESS notice of Sunday School Christmas celebrations, so I propose to contribute my mite this week in that department. First, we will go to *Eden Chapel*, a new Moravian Church, on the Lexington road, about two miles and a half from Salem. Said place of worship was consecrated to the service of the Lord on the 21st of January, 1877, so that this is the first Christmas celebration ever held there. And here I would remark that, in the ministerial changes of last year, this place was added to Kernersville and Friedland. It is considered a *Chapel of ease*, from the fact that I have to ride 12 miles every other Sunday and preach three times. But when I came there on Monday evening, *Christmas Eve*, I found a good crowd assembled, notwithstanding the rain, and for want of a "love-feast kitchen" the coffee for the Christmas Lovefeast was preparing in the open air.

On entering, I found the Church gracefully decorated, and was welcomed by the singing of an appropriate hymn by the School. After a short address, the cakes and coffee were distributed and the singing continued, as the young people had been practicing for some weeks under the guidance of Mr. R. Tesh and others. After the cups were taken away, the lights were put out, and for a few moments we were in total darkness, when suddenly the door opened and our friend, John Harmon appeared with a tray full of lighted tapers which were distributed among the children at large. This was a complete surprise, as only two or three were in the secret, and the tapers were furnished by our friend, Joseph Knaus, who seemed to enjoy it as much as the children; "Uncle" Sandy Snyder and Mr Albert Brendel too, lent a helping hand; and the first Christmas celebration at Eden Chapel was a success, the best kind of order prevailing throughout.

Cool Spring School, under the management of Messrs. McCuistan and Clodfelter, had an entertainment too the same night, and they had a nice time.

Next morning, Christmas, I went to Friedland, where the usual preparations in the way of decorating the Church had been made. First, there was an address by the pastor, followed by a Methodist minister, Mr. Burch, who had dropped in to see how the Moravians kept Christmas. Then there was a general Lovefeast, followed by the Sunday School exercises, conducted by the Superintendent Mr. Wm. Weavel, consisting of singing and recitations; and what added to the occasion was that Miss Lou Raper brought her organ there and conducted the music. At the close, there was a distribution of lighted tapers and the gifts, from the christmas tree, and everybody went home, through the rain well pleased with the entertainment.

At *Kernersville*, the celebration came off in the night, of the 26th, 2nd Christmas day. There too extensive preparations had been made in the way of decoration, accompanied with the finest Christmas tree I think I ever saw; and one of the attractions connected with it were the oranges fastened on it.

The exercises consisted in singing, recitations, quotations of scripture texts and reveiew of the Sunday School lessons for the last quarter. Mr. Roberts, the Superintendent and his assistants, deserve praise for their efforts to make it a christian entertainment, and the actors deserve praise for their efforts in faithfully carrying out the programme.

In the singing department too there was a marked improvement over last year, and here the untiring efforts of Miss Floy Rights, assisted by her mother, in training the little ones, who sung charmingly, should not be overlooked. Each member of *Union Star* Sunday School did what they could to make the entertainment a success, and all present I believe, were ready to affirm that it was the best thing of the kind, decorations and all, that had ever been in Kernersville. Our friend, Mr. J. Harmon, manifested his usual zeal in the decorating department, and he does not believe in doing things *half way*, whether it is building a mill or making a Christmas decoration. At the conclusion, the oranges and candy on the tree were distributed among the members of the School. On Friday, the 28th, Dr. and Mrs. E. Kerner, gave a turkey dinner, commemorating Miss Ella's birthday; there was a general gathering of the clans, (Kerners,) and they were not a few, besides the neighbors and young people of the vicinity. This seemed to be the cap-sheaf in our round of Christmas festivities.

This morning Mr. Roba B. Kerner returned to Chapel Hill, having spent two weeks vacation at home. C. L. R.

A Gentle Hint.

In our style of climate, with its sudden changes of temperature,—rain, wind and sunshine often intermingled in a single day,—it is no wonder that our children, friends and relatives are so frequently taken from us by neglected colds, half the deaths resulting directly from this cause. A bottle of Boschee's German Syrup kept about your home for immediate use will prevent serious sickness, a large doctor's bill, and perhaps death, by the use of three or four doses. For curing Consumption, Hemorrhages, Pneumonia, Serve Coughs, Croup or any disease of the Throat or Lungs, its success is simply wonderful, as your druggist will tell you. German Syrup is now sold in every town and village on this continent.—Sample bottles for trial, 10c; regular size, 75c.

MARRIED.

At the residence of George Wilson, Esq., on the 20th of December, 1877, by Rev. C. L. Rights, Mr. GIDEON F. KERNER to Miss FLORA F. WILSON.

In Surry county, on the night of the 20th ult., at the residence of the bride's mother, by Ira Reece, Esq., Mr. WALTER MOONEY and Miss ELIZA HARDY, both of Surry.

In Rockford, on the night of the 25th ult., at the residence of the bride's mother, by John Burress, Esq., Mr. PURVIS VESTAL, of Yadkin and Miss LUCY ROBINSON, of Rockford.

DIED.

In Davidson county, December 22d, 1878, ADELAIDE REBECCA SPAUGH, daughter of Samuel Spaugh, aged 21 years, 2 months and 5 days.

In Forsyth county, December 28th, 1877, PLEASANT HAMILTON SWAIM, aged about 46 years.

On the 1st inst., Mrs. JANETTE EBERT, wife of Wm. Ebert, leaving a husband, children and a numerous circle of relatives and friends to mourn her loss. Aged about 47 years.

At his residence, Walnut Cove, Stokes county, on the 27th ult., Mr. WM. A. LASH, Sen. Mr. Lash had been afflicted with paralysis for years. He was a prominent and highly respected citizen.

THOS. R PURNELL,
Attorney-at-Law,
RALEIGH, N. C.,

Will attend to business in the State and Federal Courts. Claims collected in any part of the State.

EDM. BLUM. I. A. BLUM.

EDMUND BLUM & CO.,
COPPERSMITHS and MANUFACTURERS of TINWARE.

Also TIN ROOFING and GUTTERING done.

We do all kinds of SHEET IRON work, REPAIRING of any kind in our line of business, executed promptly.

We pay the highest prices for all kinds of OLD COPPER and PEWTER.

Country produce taken in exchange for work or ware.

Country merchants will do well to call and examine our stock before purchasing elsewhere.

Thankful for past favors we solicit a continuance of the same.

GERMANTON STREET, 15 minutes walk from the court-house, Winston, N. C.
Jan 3, 1878 6m

GOODS
AT REDUCED PRICES.

TO reduce my stock as much as possible before taking our *Inventory*, I propose now to sell goods at GREATLY REDUCED prices. Parties desiring great bargains will do well by giving me a call with plenty of CASH. J. L. FULKERSON.
Salem, N. C., Jan. 2, 1878.

THE HOLIDAYS
ARE HERE, AND
THE SALEM BOOKSTORE
IS THE PLACE TO BUY YOUR
Christmas Presents.

THE ASSORTMENT IS
Beautiful, Useful and Cheap.

For the LADIES
we have
FINE BOOKS, WORKBOXES,
WRITING DESKS, PAPETRIES,
PORTEMONNAIES, &c.
NEW FLORAL AUTOGRAPH ALBUMS. NEW PHOTO-AUTOGRAPH ALBUMS.
Pocket and Quarto Photo Albums from 50 cents. to $5.

The GENTS
will find
BOOKS, PAPER,
INKSTANDS and RACKS,
MARK TWAIN'S SCRAP BOOK,
WRITING DESKS and
GENERAL STATIONERY.

The BOYS and GIRLS
will find
INTERESTING BOOKS,
GAMES,
PICTURES,
WORKBOXES and WORKBASKETS, &c., &c.

The LITTLE FOLKS
will find
TOY BOOKS in endless variety,
BRIGHT STORY BOOKS,
ALPHABET BLOCKS,
PICTURES, &c., &c.

We have spared no trouble to present to our customers a variety of the
Very Best Holiday Goods
attainable, and invite a careful inspection before making their purchases elsewhere.

DR TUTT'S EXPECTORANT.

Is the most genial balsam ever used by sufferers from pulmonary diseases.

It is composed of herbal products, which have a specific effect on the throat and lungs; detaches from the air cells all irritating matter; causes it to be expectorated, and at once checks the inflammation which produces the cough. A single dose relieves the most distressing paroxysm, soothes nervousness and enables the sufferer to enjoy quiet rest at night. Being a pleasant cordial, it tones the weak stomach, and is specially recommended for children.

What others say about Tutt's Expectorant.

Had Asthma Thirty Years.
BALTIMORE, *February* 3, 1875.
"I have had Asthma thirty years, and never found a medicine that had such a happy effect."
W. F. HOGAN, Charles St.

A Child's Idea of Merit.
NEW ORLEANS, *November* 11, 1876.
"Tutt's Expectorant is a familiar name in my house. My wife thinks it the best medicine in the world, and the children say it is 'nicer than molasses candy.'" NOAH WOODWARD, 101 N. Poydras St.

"Six, and all Croupy."
"I am the mother of six children; all of them have been croupy. Without Tutt's Expectorant, I don't think they could have survived some of the attacks. It is a mother's blessing."
MARY STEVENS, Frankfort, Ky.

A Doctor's Advice.
"In my practice, I advise all families to keep Tutt's Expectorant, in sudden emergencies, for coughs, croup, diphtheria, etc."
T. P. ELLIS, M.D., Newark, N. J.

Sold by all druggists. Price $1.00. Office 35 Murray Street, New York.

TUTT'S PILLS

"THE TREE IS KNOWN BY ITS FRUIT."
"Tutt's Pills are worth their weight in gold."
REV. I. R. SIMPSON, Louisville, Ky.
"Tutt's Pills are a special blessing of the nineteenth century."—REV. F. R. OSGOOD, New York.
"I have used Tutt's Pills for torpor of the liver. They are superior to any medicine for biliary disorders ever made."
I. P. CARR, Attorney at Law, Augusta, Ga.
"I have used Tutt's Pills for years in my family. They are unequaled for costiveness and biliousness."
F. R. WILSON, Georgetown, Texas.
"I have used Tutt's Medicine with great benefit."
W. W. MANN, Editor Mobile Register.
"We sell fifty boxes Tutt's Pills to five of all others."—SAYRE & CO., Cartersville, Ga.
"Tutt's Pills have only to be tried to establish their merits. They work like magic."
W. H. BARRON, 96 Summer St., Boston.
"There is no medicine so well adapted to the cure of bilious disorders as Tutt's Pills."
JOS. BRUMMEL, Richmond, Virginia.
AND A THOUSAND MORE.

Sold by druggists. 25 cents a box. Office 35 Murray Street, New York.

TUTT'S HAIR DYE
INDORSED.
HIGH TESTIMONY.
FROM THE PACIFIC JOURNAL.
"A GREAT INVENTION
has been made by DR. TUTT, of New York, which restores youthful beauty to the hair. That eminent chemist has succeeded in producing a Hair Dye which imitates nature to perfection. Old bachelors may now rejoice."
Price $1.00. Office 35 Murray St., New York. Sold by all druggists.

CARPETS, CARPETS,
CARPETS.

THE people of this vicinity have long felt the necessity of having a larger and better assortment of Carpets to select from than has ever been kept in the place before. *That want is now fully supplied.* We have secured the exclusive use of

Richardson's Carpet Exhibitor,

A WONDERFUL INVENTION

for showing Carpets; a brief description of the use of which we give below.

With the use of the CARPET EXHIBITOR, we show from a Sample just how the Carpet looks on a very large room, multiplying the Sample a thousand times, matched and shown as perfect as when the carpet is made up and nailed upon the floor. In this way we are now prepared to show you a

NEW YORK WHOLEALE STOCK.

We have made special arrangements with one of the *Largest Houses* in New York, to fill all our orders for Carpets, and will show you a larger assortment to select from than has ever been kept outside of a wholesale house,

We keep samples of all

NEW AND DESIRABE PATTER N

which *are not kept in stock* ontside of large cities. This way of buying Carpets has now *become popular*, and we show what you would otherwise have to go to New York to find. We can sell as cheap for *cash* as you can buy for *cash* in New York, and there being no remunants to take off the profits, we are enabled to sell on a very small commission, and most respectfully invite the public to examine our stock, and satisfy themselves.

IF YOU WANT A ARPET

of any dimensions, bring a correct measure of your room and we guarantee to suit you. Please call and see us, whether you wish to buy or not, as it is no trouble to show goods.

PATTERSON & CO.,
CARPETS, DRY GOODS and GENERAL MERCHANDISE.
Main Street, Salem, N. C.

ALWAYS READY
WITH
SEASONABLE GOODS.

THE UNDERSIGNED having secured the old stand of PFOHL & STOCKTON, has filled it with a very handsome and

FRESH STOCK OF
GENERAL MERCHANDISE,
CONSISTING OF
DRY GOODS
OF ALL DESCRIPTIONS,
Notions, Groceries, Boots and Shoes, Drugs, Dye-Stuffs, Crockery, Hardware, Stationery, &c.

which I offer to the public
AT REDUCED PRICES.

Country produce taken in exchange for goods at market rates.

E. A. EBERT.
Salem, N. C., April, 5th, 1877.—14-tf.

THE NEW WILSON
SEWING MACHINE.

FUTURE CASH PRICES, from 30 to 45 DOLLARS according to Style of Furniture.

EXTRA ATTACHMENTS FREE

and freights paid to your nearest Rail Road Depot. Call and see, or address,
WHARTON & JONES,
General Agents for North Carolina.
Greensboro or Salem, N. C.

1819. 1877.

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The Pioneer and Standard of American Farm JOURNALS.

Especially adapted to the systems and crops of this section.

PROGRESSIVE BUT PRUDENT,
SCIENTIFIC BUT PRACTICAL.

Its editors have the assistance of a large number of correspondents, who are among the first men in the Agricultural profession. SUBSCRIBE NOW. Numbers for the last three months of 1877 sent free to all new subscribers for 1878, received before January 1.

150 a year. To clubs of five or more, only $1
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BALTIMORE, MD.

The American Farmer and the People's Press will be clubbed together and sent one year for $3 00.

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FOR SALE.

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OR
HALF-MEDIUM
GORDON PRESS.
BOTH IN GOOD ORDER.
Inquire at this OFFICE.

J. & P. Coats' Thread.
Wholesale Prices Reduced to 65 Cents per Dozen.

A Large supply just received, embracing all shades and colors.

Merchants will please send in their orders to
PATTERSON & CO.
Salem, N. C., Jan. 5th 1877.

KID GLOVES,
OF THE LATEST IMPORTATION S AND CHOICE COLORS.

Ladies' 2 Button Kid Gloves 75 cents.
" 3 " " $1 00
Gents 2 " "Lined " 2 00
The Alexander Kid Glove, Ladie's sizes, in 1 and 2 Buttons, *at Cost.*
J. L. FULKERSON.
Salem, N. C., Dec. 5, 1877.

THE PIONEER HOUSE.
Established in 1846.

FIRST INVENTED! LATEST IMPROVED!
THE
NEEDHAM ORGAN!
"SILVER TONGUE."

I WISH TO INFORM ALL PERSONS that I am offering great inducements in these beautiful, durable and FIRST-CLASS ORGANS.

Special Prices To Churches, Lodges, &c.

For the satisfaction of all, I make the following references to parties to whom I have sold:

J. M. Tesh, Reidsville, Rockingham Co., N. C
H. S. Suttlemyre, Hickory, Catawba " "
S. H. Smith, Druggist, Winston, Forsyth " "
Dr. C. J. Watkins, " " " "
S. H. Miller, " " " "
Frank M. Messer, Salem, " "
Theophilus Kimble, " " " "
Baptist Church, Mocksville, Davie " "
R. Q. A. Teague, Farmington, " "
Samuel Jones, Esq., Clemmonsville, " "
Thos. D. Cooper, " "
W. C. Strupe, " "
Presbyterian Church, High Point, " "
Elsie G. Charles, Abbott's Creek, " "
J. W. Griffith, Salem, " "
N. W. Beeson, Abbott's Creek, " "
P. N. Raper, " " " "
R. A. Poindexter, Mt. Airy, Yadkin " "
Samuel Walls, Abbott's Creek. " "
B. F. Eaton, Farmington, " "

The above names will suffice to satisfy all surely. Beyond all doubt, I am selling the best organmade, and by far the cheapest of any first-class organ.

By referring to the *American Cyclopaedia*, Vol. 11 and 14, *Zell's Encyclopaedia*, Vol. 2, *Johnson's Cyclopaedia*, Vol. 3 and to *Appleton's Progress*, we find all the valuable inventions in the Reed Organ ascribed to Mr. Jeremiah Carhart, (who formeiry with Mr. Needham, formed the firm of Carhart & Needham) and Mr. E. P. Needham.

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General State Agent,
Abbott's Creek, Davidson Co., N. C.
Oct. 18, 1877.-1y.

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CONFIDENTIAL Notice, to Agents, New Organs 16 Stops $120, 13 $96, 12, $85, 9, $65. PIANOS retail price $650 only $175. DANIEL F. BEATTY, Washington, N. J.

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We keep all sizes usually called for and shall be pleased to show them. An examination will satisfy every one of the truth of our statement.
Patterson & Co.
Salem, N. C., August 18th, 1877.—no.34

POETRY.

The Fall of the Year.

Coldly and bright draws in the day;
Gloomy and drear it steals away;
For slowly now comes up the sun,
His summer's ardent labors done;
And low his golden wheel declines
Where Winter shows his starry signs.

No more to earth the fervid beams
Give beauty such as poet dreams;
No more descends the glorious ray,
The rapture of the summer day.
The sky's deep blue is waxing pale,
The sun's inspiring fervors fail;
The slanting beam he gives is chill
Within the vale and on the hill;
And now with many a jealous fold,
The clouds would all his cheer withhold,
Nor would on plain or height bestow
The soothing of his waning glow.

The flowers are gone, save those that still,
Like friends who cleave to us through ill,
Outbrave the bitter wind that blows,
And cack their season to its close,
The leaves that late were only stirred
By gentlest breath, that only heard
The song-bird's note, round the blast
Blows keen and fierce, and rude and fast
The rising gale flings far and wide
Their withered bloom and idle pride.
The birds have fled; the wind alone
Makes song in many a sullen tone.

But sudden through the bursting sky
The sun again comes out on high;
The clouds fall back to yield him way,
And fly before his eager ray;
And gladness fills the breast amain—
The glimpse of summer comes again!
Ah! sweet the beam, but like the smile
With which the dying would beguile
The mourning heart—the last sad ray
Love gives to cheer our tears away,
The light is gone, the moment's bloom
Is sunk again in cold and gloom.
So pass away all things of earth,
Whate'er we prize of love and worth—
The form once dear; the voice that cheered;
The friends by many a tie endeared;
The dreams the aching heart forgets;
The hopes that fade in cold regrets.

Sweet scenes, dear haunts, that once I knew,
My heart yet fondly turns to you,
Let seasons change, and be ye bright
With all the summer-tide's delight.
Or let the winter's gloom be yours,
Your beauty still for me endures;
For memory keeps unfaded yet
What love would have me not forget.

—*Chamber's Journal.*

HUMOROUS.

A Hard Head.

When the present illustrious Captain Riggan was a mere boy, his father owned a merino ram that was known far and near for the excessive hardness of his skull, and the terribleness of his butting qualities. Captain Riggan took butting lessons for six years under that ram. And never did tutor turn forth a more finished pupil. But the scholar at length proved too much for the young master.

Young Riggan was in the habit of going off to a meadow every morning and having a "set to" with that old ram. One day he went out, as usual, and seeing a large crack in the meadow fence, he stuck his head through, and bleated. That made the old ram rambunctious, and he fetched a but at Riggan's head. But Riggan quickly drew back, and let the ram ram his rampant head ram up against the fence.

Young Riggan was delighted with the trick, and repeated it several times, to the great discomfeiture of his ramship.

But it happened that the crack in the fence was not the same size all the way along the pannel, and so, one time, Riggan got his head through and wriggled his neck into a narrower part of the crack before he bleated. The fierce old merino came charging down upon him and Riggan tried to withdraw his cranium as he had done before. But his cranium wouldn't withdraw. The old ram had on a dead beat.

There was no one stirring in that part of the farm. It was about ten o'clock in the morning, and from that time till four in the afternoon not a sound broke the monotonous stillness of the lonely spot except the regularly repeated blows of the ram's skull against Riggan's. Then there was silence.

No one at the house knew where the youngster was. They missed him at dinner, and searched for him every where until supper time. Then they found him. He was lying with his head still through the crack of the fence—and sound asleep! Just on the other side of the fence lay the merino ram—stone dead! He had butted himself to death against that adamantine skull.

Good for Pat.

From Rockwood, Illinois, we have word that Roley B., a ready witted Irishman, still lives, and is able to get outside of his regular liquids.

The other day one of the boys thinking to have a little fun out of him said:

"Roley, have you heard the news!"

"No; what news?"

"Why the devil is dead.

Not a word said Roley, but putting his hand in his pocket and pulling out a ten-cent shinplaster, handed it to his questioner, who asked what it was for.

"Why, answered Roley, in the old country, where I came from, it was the custom to give the children something when the parents died.

At this there was considerable laughter, but no further inquiries.

A school mistress in a surburban town who had long been annoyed by the perversities of a male pupil of nineteen, on one of the closing days of last term kept him in and undertook to whale him.—He, however, disarmed her, and returned several kisses for each blow. The school mistress, unable to forgive this breach of discipline, looked him sternly in the face, shaking her forefinger at him in a menacing manner, said solemnly: "William, I will give you precisely fifteen minutes to stop hugging me, and if you disobey me I shall punish you severely."

Why is kissing your sweetheart like eating soup with a fork? Because it takes a long time to get enough of it.

AGRICULTURAL.

Owners of Land in Europe.

From the New York Times.

The grand total of 1,153,816 so called land owners for the three countries (England, Scotland and Ireland) is reduced to most modest proportions by omitting all owners below one acre, who are, with rare exceptions, owners of houses, or even lessees of houses only, for the return includes as proprietors all those who hold under leases of over sixty years. From the total of 301,378 entries of proprietors above one acre great reductions must again be made, and after deducting owners of house property, duplicate entries, holders of glebe lands, and corporate bodies and charities, the most liberal estimate cannot put the number more than 200,000, of which the owners in England are less than 170,000, of Ireland 20,000, and Scotland under 10,000. It is interesting to compare this state of things with that of other countries. According to M. De Lavergne, of 7,6000,000 heads of families in France, 5,500,000 are owners of land, two-thirds of whom cultivate their own lands. In Switzerland, of 550,000 heads of families, 465,000 are possessed of landed property. In Belgium, M. De Laveleye states, of 4,1000,000 inhabitants. 1,124,000 are owners of land. The numbers, however, appear to be excessive. In Sweden, out of 850,000 families, 200,000 are land-owners. In the United States, of 7,200,000 heads of families, 2,600,000 own and farm their own lands. In England, of 4,400,000 heads of families, only 170,000, or 1 out of 26, is an owner of land. In Ireland, a purely agricultural country, and a country of peasant holdings, only one head of a family out of every 52 is an owner of land; and in Scotland the disproportion is still greater, for only one family in 84 is endowed with land.

Diminution of Live Stock.—The diminution of live stock in Great Britain and Ireland within the last few years is causing considerable anxiety in agricultural circles in those countries. There has been a decrease in the number of cattle and sheep in Great Britain since 1874 of 7 per cent. There was a steady increase per annum of cattle in the United Kingdom from 1865 to 1874, and thenceforward there has been a gradual falling off. The cattle census this year shows only 5,698,000 cattle in Great Britain, which is a loss of 428,000 in three years. At this rate of diminution the head of cattle would be reduced to one-half in about twenty-one years. In Ireland the decrease has been more than 3 per cent. Sheep in Great Britain have decreased to the number of 2,763,000 or 7 per cent., while in Ireland there has been a falling off of 10¼ per cent., and yet there is now in Great Britain more land under grass or crops for feeding animals than there was in 1874. The decrease in the number of live stock kept is due to one or both of two causes; either the farmers are short of money for buying cattle or sheep or for keeping up the yield of their green crops, or disease has visited their live stock with such excessive mortality as to discourage the farmers from hirding.

Distillation of Grain.—It is computed that the grain used for liquors in a year in the United States reaches 70,000,000 bushels, which would make 1,050,000,000 four pound loaves of bread. Great Britain uses 80,000,000 bushels of grain yearly for the same purpose, and annually imports food to the value of nearly $400,000,000.

Hogs.—At the close of the first centennial of the United States there were 25,717,907 hogs in the whole country; 15,063,100 were in o. en route to Cincinnati, and the rest chiefly between St. Louis and Chicago. This is less than two-thirds of a log to each citizen.

100,000 COPIES OF ST. NICHOLAS FOR THE

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

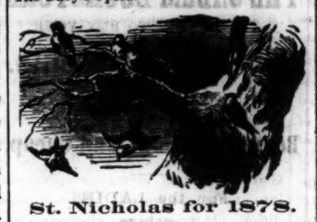
Only 25 Cents a Copy.

Some idea of the attraction offered in the Christmas Holiday Number of St. Nicholas, of which 100,000 copies will be issued, may be gained from the following: There are poems by HENRY W. LONGFELLOW and WILLAM CULLEN BRYANT; a fine hitherto unpublished sketch of Boy Life, by the Late Theodore Winthrop; and a short story by the author of "Alice in Wonderland;" a new fairy story, "Sweet Marjoram Day," by Frank R. Stockton. "The Peterkins Charades," by Lucretia P. Hale; a poetic riddle by Dr. J. G. HOLLAND, and a comparison between the manners of young folks in olden times and nowadays, by Gail Hamilton.

Of the story element, the brightest feature is the beginning of the new serial by Miss Alcott, entitled "Under the Lilacs," with illustrations by Mary Hallock Foote.

The Christmas Number contains also the opening of a new Serial Story for Boys, a tale of tropical life, entitled "Tower-Mountain," by Gustavus Frankenstein, admirably illustrated by the artists Moran and Kelly; "A Portrait of Miss Alcott," with a sketch of her life; several poems by Two Little American Girls; a Play, and a Christmas Carol (set to music); and half a dozen complete short stories, bright, funny, exciting and pathetic, &c., &c.

The New Cover is by the English Artist, Walter Crane,—the famous designer of The Baby's Opera.



St. Nicholas for 1878.

Besides Miss Alcott's serial for Girls, and the three serials for Boys, to follow each other in rapid succession, will contain a short story by the author of "The Schonbergcotta Family; and an article, "Around the World in a Yacht, Boys!" has been promised by a brilliant writer, now on the actual tour of the world in his own yacht. There will be contributions by a Daughter of the Famous Peter Parley, and a Letter to Young Americans by GEORGE MAGDONALD.

The "HOW" Series of instructive papers, by various authors, will tell HOW to bind your own books; HOW they mine coal; HOW to enjoy yourselves at home; HOW to be an agreeable guest; HOW to entertain company; HOW to be a carpenter; HOW to make an ice-boat; HOW to build a house; HOW India rubber is gathered; HOW matches are made; HOW money is made; HOW mackeral are caught; HOW they laid the Atlantic cabel; HOW they mine in California; HOW they work in the tea-country; HOW to be a parlor magician; etc. There will be also a series of stories and sketches of Foreign Life,

TRAVEL AND ADVENTURE,

such as Old Nicolia, (a Russian story,) A Day among the Welsh Castles; Easter in Germany; The Indians of the Amazon; How Kitty was Lost in a Russian Bazaar; Master Montezuma, (a Mexican story); Hansa, the Lapp Maiden, and many others.

"Jack-in-the-Pulpit; Young Contributors' Department; Letter-Box; Riddle-Box, and For Very Little Folks, will be continued.

The four bound volumes of St. Nicholas already published are the most wonderful, beautiful and attractive Christmas Presents for Young People. Each volume is complete in itself. Vols. 1 and 2, $3.00 each; vols. 3 and 4, $4.00 each.

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SCRIBNER & Co., 743 Broadway, N. Y.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY FOR 1877-'78.

Without recalling the excellence of the past, the publishers of Scribner's Monthly announce the following papers:

The Picturesque Side of American Farm Life.—This subject will be treated in a series of separate papers engaged from writers who stand in the front rank among Americans, both in qualities of style and in keen insight of nature. Mr. R. E. Robinson, author of a delightful paper on "Fox-Hunting in New England" in the January number, will represent the same section in this series. John Burroughs, whose papers on similar topics have been a highly prized and popular feature of Scribner will write of Farm Life in New York. Maurice Thompson, the poet-naturalist, will describe the characteristics of Western farming, of which but little has been written. It is expected that the illustration of this series will be of a refined and typical character, commensurate with the subject-matter. It is thought that no paper or series of papers yet issued in Scribner will so fully realize the constant desire of the magazine to keep out of the ruts, and, both in text and illustrations, to obtain quality rather than quantity, and to print fresh, strong and delicate work from original sources.

Rozy,—by Edward Eggleston (author of The Hoosier Schoolmaster, &c.) This new novel will doubtless be the most important American serial of the year. The first number was published in November. Those who have read it in manuscript declare Roxy to be much the most striking and remarkable story this author has ever written. It is illustrated by one of the ablest of the younger American painters—Mr. Walter Shirlaw, President of The American Art Association.

American Sports.—Some of the most novel and entertaining of these papers are yet to appear, the scenes of which will be in the West, the Middle States, the South, New England and Canada.

Out-of-Door Papers.—by John Burroughs, author of Wake Robin, &c., will contain not only articles on Birds, but on Tramping, Camping Out, and kindred topics. Mr. Burrough's papers will begin in the January number, the first being entitled Birds and Birds, and illustrated by Fidelia Bridges.

Architecture of Birds.—Dr. Thomas M. Brewer will contribute four exquisitely illustrated articles on birds'-nests, which every lover of nature will delight in. Dr. Brewer has probably the finest collection of birds in the world to draw upon for the illustration of these papers.

The Saddle-Horse.—Col. George E. Waring, whose excellent work of various sorts our readers are familiar, contributes two illustrated articles on the horse. He treats specially of saddle-horses and their use for pleasure and for sport, including road-riding, fox-hunting and racing. The nature of the English thoroughbred and that of his Eastern progenitor (the Arabian) are fully considered in relation to these uses.

Saxe Holm.—New stories by this popular writer will be given in early numbers of Scribner, beginning with Joe Hale's Red Stockings, to appear in January. This novelette chronicles an episode of the late war for the Union.

His Inheritance.—By Aldeline Trafton, so well begun in the Midsummer Holiday, will be continued nearly through the year. It will be found to be of increasing interest to the very end.

A Knight of Fortune.—Hjalmar Hjorth Boyesen's new novel—will be begun in Scribner at the conclusion of His Inheritance. It will reveal a phase of American society undreamed of by most of our readers, and will be certain to increase the reputation of the writer as a master of English and of his art.

The Editorial Departments will continue to employ the ablest pens in America, and will include the present admirable summary of English publications. Besides the special articles above enumerated, the magazine will contain Poems, Sketches, Essays, Reviews, and shorter Stories of the highest character. A large practical reduction in price is made by an increase in the number of pages.

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1827.

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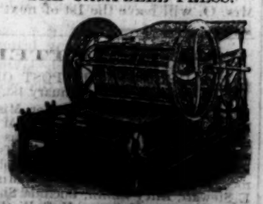

1877.

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